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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OFA-01

EB-07 SAL-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 DLOS-04 CG-00 DOTE-00

/082 W

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P R 141655Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5956
INFO COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT PRIORITY
CNO WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0074

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK NATO
SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: EDITORIALS ASSESS NATO/
LUNS ROLE

1. ROLE OF NATO IN FISHERIES DISPUTE WAS TOPIC OF EDITORIALS IN ALL THREE MORNING PAPERS TODAY. TWO DAILIES, FROM OPPOSITE ENDS OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM, TOOK PARTICULAR NOTE OF VISIT BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, WHO ARRIVED IN ICELAND TODAY.

2. MORGUNBLADID (INDEPENDENCE PARTY) WELCOMED RESULTS OF JANUARY 12 SPECIAL NAC SESSION ON FISHERIES DISPUTE IN TODAY'S EDITORIAL. PAPER POINTED OUT THAT DISCUSSION HAD ATTRACTED INTEREST OF NEARLY
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ALL DELEGATIONS AND CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO FACT "THAT

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DAVID BRUCE...ONE OF MOST RESPECTED AND BEST KNOWN U.S. DIPLOMATS
MADE LENGTHY STATEMENT AT MEETING AND EXPRESSED SERIOUS U.S. CONCERN
..." MORGUNBLADID SAID IT WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR HOW
IMPORTANT PARTICIPATION IN NATO IS TO ICELAND IN DISPUTE WITH
BRITISH AND WENT ON TO CALL NATO MEMBERSHIP "OUR STRONGEST
WEAPON." COMMENTING ON LUNS' VISIT, MORGUNBLADID RECALLED
"IMPORTANT ROLE" SYG PLAYED IN RESOLVING 1973 COD WAR. HOWEVER,
PAPER SAID, CURRENT DISPUTE HAD REACHED SUCH AN IMPASSE "THAT
IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT QUICK SOLUTION AS RESULT OF LUNS'
OR NATO'S EFFORTS.

3. AS IF TO UNDERSCORE THIS "REALISTIC" ASSESSMENT OF LUNS'
PROSPECTS, MORGUNBLADID HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE ALLEGED STATEMENT
YESTERDAY BY BRITISH FCO SPOKESMAN TO EFFECT THAT NO PURPOSE
WOULD BE SERVED BY LUNS' GOING TO LONDON FOLLOWING REYKJAVIK TALKS
UNLESS HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ICELANDERS PRODUCED SIGNS OF GREATER
GOI FLEXIBILITY.

4. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN'S
EDITORIAL TOOK FORM OF OPEN LETTER TO LUNS, WHOM PAPER CALLED
"SORT OF OVERLORD OF BRITISH WARSHIPS ON ICELANDIC FISHING
GROUNDS." PAPER NOTED CONTINUED AGGRESSION BY "BRITISH NATO-VESSELS"
AND CONSEQUENT THREAT TO LIVES OF ICELANDIC SEAMEN. "AGGRESSION
IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, MR. LUNS, AND THAT OF NATO LEADERS,"
THJODVILJINN SAID. EDITORIAL ADDED THAT ICELANDERS WANTED NO
PART OF SOLUTION IMPOSED BY NATO AND ADVISED LUNS TO STAY OUT OF
MATTER SO VITAL TO ICELAND'S INTERESTS. ONLY LEGITIMATE PURPOSE
THAT LUNS COULD SERVE WOULD BE "TO ORDER (UK) FRIGATES OUT OF
ICELAND'S WATERS IMMEDIATELY." OTHERWISE, PAPER SAID, "THERE
IS NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO HERE."

5. PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S DAILY TIMINN, IN LEAD EDITORIAL, ADVISED
UK NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE ICELAND'S PERSISTENCE OR BE DELUDED INTO
THINKING ICELAND WAS LOSING RESOLVE. SUB-EDITORIAL PURSUED THIS
THEME, NOTING THAT BRITISH MIGHT BE MISLED INTO THINKING ICELAND
WAS GETTING DESPERATE FROM TONE OF DEMANDS FROM POSITICAL
OPPOSITION IN COUNTRY FOR APPEALS AND ULTIMATUMS TO U.S. AND
NAOT "NATURALLY WE SHOULD SEEK TO MAXIMUM EXTENT SUPPORT OF
THESE PARTIES," TIMINN SAID, "BUT FIRST AND FOREMOST WE MUST
RELY ON OURSELVES AND PRESS RESOLUTELY FORWARD."
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6. LUNS ARRIVED REYKJAVIK ABOUT NOON TODAY. HE IS MEETING WITH
GOI OFFICIALS THIS AFTERNOON AND TOMORROW AND IS EXPECTED TO HOLD
PRESS CONFERENCE 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME TOMORROW.
IRVING

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NNN

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